

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07390 041335Z

43 S

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03

DODE-00 CIAE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /046 W

----- 130710

R 041134Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 871

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7390

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PK, IR, IN, US

REF: TEHRAN 6145 AND 6236

SUMMARY: DEPLOYMENT OF US-ORIGIN HELICOPTERS IN LOGISTIC
SUPPORT OF PAK ARMY OPERATIONS AGAINST OPPOSITION I
H

BALUCHISTAN MAY HAVE UNFAVORABLE DOMESTIC CONSEQUENCES
HERE WHEN STORY SURFACES, WITH SOME OF OPPROBRIUM
POSSIBLY RUBBING OFF ON US. BALUCHISTAN IMPASSE RESULTS
FROM POLITICAL-TRIBAL-SOCIAL DISPUTE FAR MORE COMPLEX
THAN MERE LAW AND ORDER PROBLEM. INJECTION OF IRANIAN
MILITARY UNITS INTO THIS SITUATION APPEARS UNWISE AND
POSSIBLY DESTABILIZING MOVE. GOP CLEARLY AWARE OF POSSIBLE
ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES SINCE IT HAS JUST FLATLY (AND
DISINGENUOUSLY) DENIED PRESENCE ANY IRANIAN "TROOPS" IN
BALUCHISTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPLOYMENT OF IRANIAN MILITARY HELICOPTERS IN BALUCHI-
STAN, IN ADDITION TO CAUSING POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS IN
INDIA AND OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES, COULD ALSO HAVE UNFAVORABLE
DOMESTIC CONSEQUENCES IN PAKISTAN ITSELF IF STORY SURFACES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 07390 041335Z

IN INCONTROVERTIBLE FORM. AMCONSUL KARACHI POLITICAL

OFFICER, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THREE-DAY VISIT TO QUETTA, HHAS EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN THAT ACTIVE IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN BALUCHISTAN MAY SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE AMELIORATION OF CURRENT UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PROVINCE. HE ALSO FEARS THAT SURFACING OF FACT THAT IRANIANS ARE USING US EQUIPMENT COULD LEAD TO LASTING ALIENATION AND DISTRUST OF US ON PART OF BALUCH OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP.

2. AS OUR REPORTING AND THAT OF AMCONSUL KARACHI HAVE EMPHASIZED, SITUATION IN BALUCHISTAN IS FAR BROADER AND MORE COMPLEX THAN MERE INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM. BALUCHISTAN NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) LEADERS HAVE SOME JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR COMPLAINT THAT BHUTTO ADMINISTRATION USED PRETEXTS AND CONTRIVED INCIDENTS TO DISMISS LEGAL NAP-CONTROLLED PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT LAST SPRING THEREBY PRECIPITATING PROLONGED POLITICAL CONFLICT IN PROVINCE. SINCE THAT TIME, PICTURE HAS BEEN ONE OF ALTERNATING NEGOTIATIONS AND POLITICAL INFIGHTING BETWEEN BHUTTO SUPPORTERS AND BALUCH OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP, CULMINATING IN RECENT ARRESTS OF TOP OPPOSITION LEADERS ON WHAT APPEAR TO MANY TO BE SPECIOUS CRIMINAL CHARGES. WHILE CERTAIN BALUCH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS HAVE ENGAGED TO SOME EXTENT IN ARMED ACTIVITIES AGAINST CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, FACT IS THAT NEITHER SIDE HAS PLAYED ACCORDING TO DEMOCRATIC, CONSTITUTION RULES. GOP IS USING ARMY AS ONE OF ITS PRIME IMPLEMENTS IN THIS CONTEST. THUS, WHAT MAY APPEARS IN TEHRAN AS AID TO FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR IN MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IS LIKELY TO BE SEEN BY BALUCH OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AS BHUTTO RESORT TO OUTSIDE MERCENARIES IN SUPPRESSING HIS OWN CITIZENS.

3. APPEARS TO US THAT PROSPECTS FOR SATISFACTORY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN BALUCHISTAN CAN BE SERIOUSLY SET BACK BY INJECTION OF IRANIAN MILITARY UNITS INTO THIS COMPLEX SITUATION. FURTHERMORE, EVEN RESPONSIBLE PAKISTANIS ADNINVOLVED IN BALUCHISTAN DISPUTE MIGHT BE TAKEN ABACK TO LEARN THAT GOP HAS BROUGHT IN FOREIGN FORCES TO HELP SUPPRESS DISSIDENT PAKISTANIS. GOP OBVIOUSLY IS AWARE OF THIS DANGER SINCE IT HAS CONSISTENTLY DENIED RECURRENT RUMORS OF IRANIAN FORCES IN BALUCHISTAN.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 07390 041335Z

4. MOST RECENT AND STRONGEST GOP DENIAL WAS CONVEYED IN FORMAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STATEMENT RELEASED TO PRESS ON AUGUST 31, I.E., WELL AFTER IRANIAN HELICOPTERS ENTERED THE FRAY. STATEMENT TOOK NOTE OF NEWS STORY APPEARING IN PESHAWAR OPPOSITION PAPER ALLEGING THAT "A LARGE NUMBER OF IRANIAN TROOPS AND TANKS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO BALUCHISTAN". IT TERMED THIS STORY "COMPLETE FABRICATION

AND UTTERLY FALSE", ASSERTING THAT "THERE ARE NO IRANIAN TROOPS OR TANKS PRESENT OR DEPLOYED ANYWHERE IN BALUCHISTAN". STATEMENT WENT ON TO CASTIGATE REPORTS THAT IRANIANS FORCES HAD SUFFERED CASUALTIES, ON GROUNDS THERE WERE NO IRANIAN TROOPS IN BALUCHISTAN AND THUS NO CASUALTIES POSSIBLE. IT WOULD UP DENOUNCING OFFENDING NEWSPAPER FOR "THIS CRUDE ATTEMPT AT DRAGGING THE FAIR NAME OF THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORING COUNTRY...TO CREATE INTERNATIONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR PAKISTAN".

5. HOWEVER THIS IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN BALUCHISTAN CAME ABOUT " WHETHER BY SPONTANEOUS GOP REQUEST TO TEHRAN OR PERHAPS BY SHAH PRESSING HIS ASSISTANCE ON PAKISTANIS - IT APPEARS TO US AS UNWISE AND PROBABLY UNNECESSARY MOVE. HAVING SAID THAT, HOWEVER, WE DOUBT WHETHER THERE IS MUCH OF ANYTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT AT THIS STAGE. BHUTTO ADMINISTRATION IS WELL AWARE OF OUR CONTINUING CONCERN OVER COURSE OF EVENTS IN BALUCHISTAN AND OUR DESIRE TO SEE SOLUTION WORKED OUT BY ACCOMMODATIONS RATHER THAN FORCE. WHILE WE MIGHT ONCE AGAIN SEEK OCCASION TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER BALUCHISTAN SITUATION, EITHER IN GENERAL OR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO IRANIAN HELICOPTERS, ODDS ARE MUCH AGAINST BHUTTO BEING MOVED BY OUR ADVICE. WHETHER HE ACTIVELY SOUGHT IRANIAN LOGISTICS AID OR MERELY ACQUIESCED IN IT, HE CERTAINLY MADE THIS DECISION WITH EYES OPEN AND IN AWARENESS OF CONSEQUENCES. SOBER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. NEWLIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ISLAMA07390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SOBER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730957/aaaabppg.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: TEHRAN 6145 AND 6236
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPLOYMENT OF US-ORIGIN HELICOPTERS IN LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF PAK ARMY
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PK, IR, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005